

ROAD PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN FOUR YEARS

By Charles Etukuri

The Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Katumba Wamala, is impressed by the progress of the Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula road, saying the project is progressing well.

"The progress is good. The project is highly appreciated by the public. The contractor is fully mobilised with new equipment and machinery. I'm confident that the project timelines will be met," Katumba said while inspecting the road works on Thursday.

The 83km road is a vital international trade route linking Uganda to Tanzania, passing through Kyotera district.

Currently undergoing major reconstruction, the project aims at improving the high-traffic border crossing, which is essential for regional logistics.

Katumba said given that this corridor is a major international trade route to Mutukula border, improving its structural integrity not only enhances freight efficiency, but also reduces crash exposure for both long-haul trucks and local road users.

The minister said the project also includes the rehabilitation of Nyendo-Villa Maria road (11km) and access roads (7km) to paved standard. China Chongqing International

MASAKA-KYOTERA-MUTUKULA ROAD WORKS IMPRESS MINISTER

Construction Corporation (CICO) is handling the project at sh691b.

Katumba also commended the supervising project engineer, Ronald Olaki, for his active role in managing project execution and maintaining steady progress on the site.

"Eng. Olaki has been instrumental in co-ordinating between the contractor and the employer, ensuring that works advance in line with contractual requirements while addressing practical implementation challenges on the ground.

"He is widely acknowledged within Uganda's road sector for his contribution to driving performance and maintaining momentum across several key road projects delivered in the country over the past decade," Katumba said.

He added that the project does not have provisions for compensation of persons who encroached on the



Gen. Katumba (right) inspecting the construction works on the Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula road project

road reserves, explaining that the contractor is operating within the original dimensions of the road.

The minister said the contractor

is going to construct walkways and install streetlights in all linear towns located along the road.

The Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula

BACKGROUND

In May 2024, Prime Minister Robina Nabbanja flagged off the construction works in Kyotera town council, ending the many years of waiting.

The project is financed by the Government of Uganda under a pre-financing agreement with a Chinese firm, Chongqing International Construction Corporation. The road is expected to be completed in four years.

Nabbanja said the project was long overdue, saying the Government had all along been looking for funds until later when Cabinet resolved on modalities of its financing.

The works ministry senior communications officer, Allan Sempebwa, said the ministry had directed all contractors with ongoing works to resume construction on major infrastructure in the country.

highway was originally constructed in the 1960s and later rehabilitated in 2001, but its state has been worsening over time, which has resulted in continuous protests by truck drivers, local leaders and residents.